The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It is the act of a bad man to deceive by falsehood.—Cicero.

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COMMUNISTS AND THE WORKING CLASS

In a recent speech in New York City a strategist of the Communist Party said:

"We are now in the period of decisive clashes between Socialist reformism and Communism for the leadership of the majority of the working class."

The two dozen words sum revolutionary endeavor—"leadership of the majority of the working class."

The official organ of the "red" Trade Union Educational League has declared:

*** * * the fate of all labor organization in every country depends primarily upon the activities of a minute minority of clear-sighted, enthusiastic militants scattered throughout the great organized masses of sluggish workers. These live spirits * * * are the only ones who really understand what the labor struggle means and who have practical plans for its prosecution."**

The goal of every revolutionist, every reformist, every member of the intelligentsia is this "leadership." Rarely are they as frank as Communists who openly express their contempt for the "great organized mass of sluggish workers." All of them aspire to "lead" workers by honeyed phrases and abuse of trade unionism.

Revolutionary opposition to trade unionism is as logical as reactionary opposition.

Both groups have the same purpose—"leadership of the working class." Their ultimate objective differs, but their immediate purpose is to smash the unions.

If trade unionists keep this fact in mind they can wage an intelligent fight against these two forces.

Organized labor refuses to be led. Through our referendum system we have built up a thoroughly democratic movement that naturally moves slowly because it is based on the collective intelligence of our members.

Revolutionary and other would-be leaders are not interested in collective intelligence. They want order takers and obedience, just as did the drill sergeants of Frederick the Great.

Trade unionism and revolution are as wide as the poles.

Organized labor opposes the dictatorship of the proletariat just as it opposes industrial autocrats.

If workers in other lands favor this system, that is their affair. American workers only object when it would be enforced on them.

We believe with Lincoln that no man is good enough to rule another.

SENATE STAYS PROGRESSIVE; NON-PARTISAN BLOC HOLDS

Washington, Nov. 17.—Every progressive Senator but one—Mr. Neely of West Virginia—was re-elected.

The successful Senators include Messrs. Ashurst of Arizona, Copeland of New York, Dill of Washington, Frazier of North Dakota, Howell of Nebraska, Johnson of California, Kendrick of Wyoming, McKellar of Tennessee, Pittman of Nevada, Shipstead of Minnesota, Swanson of Virginia, Wheeler of Montana and Walsh of Massachusetts.

The Republicans will have 55 Senators, the Democrats 40 and 1 Farmer-Laborite (Shipstead). The Democrats lost six seats.

The 13 successful Senators listed above are leaders in non-partisan voting in the Senate, and with a continuance of progressive sentiment in their constituencies to support them they can be expected to voice this sentiment when remedial legislation is being considered.

Progress has also been made in the House. One feature is the election of John J. Casey, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor. He has served as Congressman before.

The next Congress will convene the first Monday in December. This is known as the "short" or last session of the present Congress. The "short" session, which adjourns March 4, is generally occupied with appropriation bills. Labor's anti-injunction bill will be considered, but the fight on this subject will be waged when the new Congress convenes, in December, next year, unless a special session is called by President Hoover.

The workers, however, will continue their educational campaign for injunction relief, as the public must understand the principle involved if a remedy for this evil is accepted by Congress.

WHAT IS "ACADEMIC FREEDOM"?

The A. F. of L. Executive Council recommends that trade unions withhold financial support from Brookwood College because of opposition to trade union philosophy and tactics. The council is charged with opposing "academic freedom."

Are trade unions to be denied the right to say what sort of education they favor?

Must they support the teaching of Communism, for instance, lest they be charged with being against academic freedom?

The trade unions are not attempting to regulate any school. They have the right to say whether they will aid such school, and they exercise such right.

They take the same position when they oust Communists. The "reds" howl that they are denied free speech, but the unionists reply: "Hire a hall; our meetings are not for revolutionary purposes and our unions are not intended to be revolutionary kindergartens."

This position is plain enough to any one who is willing to acknowledge a fact.

"HEADS, I WIN; TAILS, YOU LOSE"

The Federal Trade Commission will ask the courts to compel the Electric Bond and Share Company to produce its records as an aid to the probe of public utilities, authorized by the Senate.

The company is a holding concern for Pan-American corporations and is interlocked with the General Electric Company. Officers and directors of Electric Bond hold office in more than a score of other utilities.

The refusal of Electric Bond and Share to produce its books illustrates the double-dealing policy of these public utilities.

When they want favorable measures, they rush to the government but when the government seeks information on charges that they corrupt public opinion, they talk about the dangers of government interference.

THREE MAJOR ISSUES BEFORE TRADE UNIONS

Washington, Nov. 17.—The Weekly Bulletin of the National Catholic Welfare Conference agrees with organized labor that the chief question, how to organize the unorganized and the revolution in industrial methods are leading issues that will be considered by the New Orleans convention of the A. F. of L.

"Injunctions against striking, picketing and even organizing have become common and the precedents are now so broad that the unions are face to face with a calamity," says the Bulletin.

"The unorganized are the very ones who need organization most. They are the men and women engaged in common labor, the men and women at semi-skilled jobs in the factories, men and women clerical workers and the residue of the unorganized among the skilled. Each group presents its particular bars to successful organization. To organize them something in the nature of a well-planned crusade conducted over the nation for many years to come is needed, taking into consideration also those now organized in company 'unions.'

"A third difficulty is the present revolution in industrial methods through which skill is transferred to the machines take the place of men. Blessed Thomas More's cry, 'Sheep are eating men,' has again become the cry it was a century ago, 'Machines are eating men.' Its effect on the chance to work, upon ability to bargain, upon mental independence, upon ease of organizing, is held to be one of the big problems of labor today, just as it is held to be crucial in the life and future of the United States."

UNIONS WANT FACTS TO SUPPORT CLAIMS

Washington, Nov. 17.—The value of research is more and more recognized by labor unions, according to a bulletin issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In a summary of the study, just made public, it is stated that many unions maintain a department whose business it is to gather data that is used to support claims.

"Unions," it is stated, "have had impressed upon them the fact that unless they go to conferences well armed with data bearing upon all phases of their situation they are at a disadvantage in their collective bargaining with employers.

"The employers at the council table are represented by experts with data at their fingers' ends. Early in the history of collective bargaining unions would go to conference feeling that as their claims were just they would be conceded. They soon saw, however, that having justice on their side was not enough; the claim must be proved, and to do so they must be equipped to convince their opponents.

"This showed the need for facts and for the ability to interpret these facts. But facts are not always easily available, and even when obtained were not always clear in meaning to untrained persons. To meet this situation certain unions began some time ago to establish within their organization a statistical or research department in charge of a trained statistician."

FAVOR DRY REPEAL; WET MAJORITY LARGE

Boston, Nov. 17.—This State held an indirect prohibition referendum at the general election and the vets won by a vote of 619,812 to 347,910, with returns from several districts missing. The question was before the voters in the form of a "question of public policy." The question was:

"Shall the Senator from this district be instructed to vote for a resolution requesting Congress to take action for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, known as the Prohibition Amendment?"

Repeal was favored in 32 of the 40 State Senate districts.

TWO NOMINEES SPLIT VOTE OF 14 BIG CITIES

Washington, Nov. 17.—It is estimated that the 14 leading cities divided their vote between Hoover and Smith. Excepting New York, Boston and Los Angeles there was no pronounced decision. The unofficial returns show Smith received 1,153,590 votes in New York against 994,857 for Hoover. In Boston Smith received 192,257 and Hoover 94,527. In Los Angeles Hoover received 471,196 and Smith 149,379.

The total unofficial vote in the 14 cities was: Smith, 3,420,769; Hoover, 3,375,079.

MUSCLE SHOALS LOST IF HIGH COURT FAILS

Washington, Nov. 17.—Government control of Muscle Shoals is lost if the United States Supreme Court holds that the Coolidge "pocket veto" defeats that resolution, declared Senator Norris.

Under the Constitution if a bill passed by Congress is not returned by the President within ten days, the bill becomes a law, except where adjournment of Congress makes such return impossible.

The Muscle Shoals resolution was passed at the last session of Congress within ten days before adjournment. The President took no action on the resolution.

The question now is: "What is an adjournment of Congress?" Friends of the resolution insist that the bill is law, as the Seventieth Congress does not adjourn until March 4, 1929, and that until then an adjournment for a few months or a day is not an "adjournment" within the meaning of the Constitution. The Supreme Court will have to decide this technically.

"It looks now," said Senator Norris, "that unless the Supreme Court holds that the Muscle Shoals bill is now a law, that great property developed at the expense of the American taxpayers, cannot be saved for the people.

"We do not have the votes in Congress to pass a similar bill over the veto of the President, and it is well known that the next President would veto any bill that retained the ownership, control and operation of Muscle Shoals in government hands."

GOVERNOR HUNT LOSES

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 17.—Governor Hunt, many times chief executive of this State, was caught in the political landslide. The aggressive Governor first attracted general attention 12 years ago when he notified copper magnates that they could not import strikebreakers into the Morenci-Clifton district.

CAN JAPS OWN HOSPITAL?

Washington, Nov. 17.—Can Japanese own a hospital in California is a question that must be passed upon by the United States Supreme Court. Western States now prohibit these aliens from owning land.

WARREN W. BAILEY DEAD

Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 17.—Warren Worth Bailey, 57, son of the Johnstown Democrat and former Congressman, died in this city. He was a well-known advocate of Henry George's single tax theory. His fearless advocacy of social justice, and his opposition to wrong in every form gave him a national reputation.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 17.—A two-year contract and wage increases of $1 and $2.50 a week has been secured by organized stereotypers.

BILL POSTERS GAIN

St. Paul, Nov. 17.—Organized bill posters in this city and Minneapolis raised wages $2.50 a week. The eight-hour day and the 44-hour week are included in the agreement.

EMPLOYERS OPPOSE WOMEN'S NIGHT WORK

Washington, Nov. 17.—Laws regulating day-time work of women have not limited their opportunities for employment to any appreciable extent, according to a study by the United States Women's Bureau.

Store employers, it is stated, accept this legislation because it checks competition with stores that would remain open all hours.

The Bureau states that "not one woman has been found" whose opportunities have been limited by this law. "Not only have there been practically no instances of actual decreases in women's employment as a result of hour legislation, but the general status of their opportunity seems not to have been limited by this type of law."

Night work laws have a different story, says the Bureau, "but there is an astonishingly strong feeling among employers in industry against the employment of women at night, irrespective of legal regulation.

"Night work, considered undesirable for men, is considered very much more undesirable for women," it is stated.

"On the whole, in most localities and industries, night work for either men or women is frowned upon and is decreasing. The majority of employers in industry consider night work to be even more undesirable for women than for men and they would not employ women at night if the law permitted."

DILUTED FARM BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED

Washington, Nov. 17.—Senator McNary, co-author of the rejected McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, will reintroduce this legislation, minus the equalization clause, when Congress convenes next month.

The equalization clause was the bone of contention and resulted in President Coolidge's veto of the bill. Senator McNary's new bill will be along suggestions made by President-elect Hoover and he hopes this legislation will be approved before Congress adjourns on March 4 next.

Some farm relief advocates doubt if the bill can be passed in such a short time.

SWEDISH EMPLOYERS TO MEET UNIONISTS

New York, Nov. 17.—The recently-formed Conservative government in Sweden has called an "industrial parliament," which will consist of representatives of organized employers and the trade union movement, according to cables from Stockholm to the Herald-Tribune of this city.

The purpose of the "parliament" is to reach a common ground so as to avoid future strikes, lockouts and boycotts. The originator of the plan is Minister of Social Welfare Lueback, who has served as conciliator in recent labor troubles.

The proposal follows the failure of compulsory arbitration, which the unions resisted, and costly strikes in several industries the past few years.

The last Swedish parliament passed a law setting up a labor court to which operating agreements are to be interpreted. This court can not prohibit strikes and the new government will try to institute conciliation rather than compulsion.

The government and large employers are in accord that the workers will accept no substitute for their unions, and that every attempt to destroy or weaken the labor organizations will fail.

PICKPOCKETS' RIGHTS GUARDED; NOT LABOR'S

Chicago, Nov. 17.—"When a pickpocket is arrested every legal guarantee is thrown around him, but these are denied when a striker attempts to raise living standards," said Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor.

"No lawyer ever advocated an injunction against pocket-picking, and he should not," said Mr. Olander. "These lawyers will argue with a great deal of enthusiasm, and they will agree to testify. They are right. But, oh, the tragedy of it when working people go on strike. They are made victims of injunctions and are denied legal safeguards universally regarded as essential in the case of even the meanest criminal.

"In most cases the strikers do not even know that the injunction has been applied for until the writ itself, in full force, is flaunted in their faces by the employer, or his private police. There has been no trial, no testimony, no witnesses—nothing but an affidavit by the complaining employer without notice to the strikers.

"Later they are cited to 'show cause' why they should not be punished for some violation of the injunction, and thus assumed to be guilty until they prove themselves innocent; they are denied the right of a trial by jury; they have not the same opportunity to confront the witnesses against them that the criminal has. Trade union activities benefit society. Practically every law court that has dealt with these organizations of working people in modern times has said so. Yet the whole weight of legalism stands against them when they enter the equity court. Equity? What a mockery it is!"

OUT-OF-DATE LAWS CAN'T BE ENFORCED

Elizabeth, N. J., Nov. 17.—The grand jury of this country declares, in effect, that it is unable to enforce laws that have rendered old-time laws obsolete" and has refused to indict violators of the Sunday blue laws.

These laws were passed hundreds of years ago, and were never repealed. An effort was made to revive their enforcement against the proprietor of a movin gpicture theater who operated on Sunday.

The grand jury's action is a rejection of the theory that "laws must be repealed or enforced." The blue laws can not be enforced because they are not sustained by an intelligent public opinion—the basis of sound law.

It is this age-long experience that has made it impossible to constantly urge agitation and education against the labor injunction, child labor and other social ills.

Without such public opinion every effort will fail, just as will every effort to enforce blue laws, regardless of the determination of officials who are sworn to enforce law.

CLERGY OPPOSE INJUNCTION; HIGHER IDEALS ARE URGED

New York, Nov. 17.—Opposition to repression by the injunction process and by other arbitrary acts is included in proposed additions to social ideals that are submitted by a committee to the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches.

The additions would also include approval of constitutional guarantees of free speech, assemblage and press "as the necessary means to democracy and discovery of truth."

The churchmen declare that the church should call for the abandonment of unrestrained striving by self-imposed standards and for wider distribution of property as an aid to the development of personality.

It is also stated that "we favor a determined attack upon the problem of employment, based upon the principle that if a reserve of labor is necessary to industry, the maintenance of such a reserve is a legitimate charge against the industry itself, within limits to be determined by the best scientific methods available."

This recommendation is made concerning imperialism: "That while demanding that the protection of investors in properties in foreign lands be limited to securing them equal treatment with citizens of the country in which they do business, we sanction the request of missionary boards and of missionaries themselves that our government use only such methods, in times of crisis, to protect mission property and missionaries as are compatible with international good will."

WOMEN IN CONGRESS NOW NUMBER SEVEN

Washington, Nov. 17.—Seven women were elected to the new Congress, which will convene the first Monday in December next year. This is the largest number of women ever elected to the House of Representatives.

The present women members, Mrs. Kahn of California, Mrs. Rogers of Massachusetts and Mrs. Langley of Kentucky, Republicans, and Mrs. Norton of New Jersey, Democrat, were re-elected, while the additional members-elect are Mrs. Ruth Hanna McCormick, daughter of the late Mark Hanna, as Republican representative-at-large from Illinois; Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen of Florida, Democrat and daughter of the late William Jennings Bryan, and Mrs. Ruth Baker Pratt, Republican, of New York.

Mixing of Politics and Unionism Troubles Workers In Australia

Washington, Nov. 17.—The joining of political and industrial action by Australian workers is not satisfactory, according to a letter to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., from a labor member of the Australian Commission that recently visited the United States.

In discussing conditions in his country, the Australian said: "I only hope that fight I put down on our union executives some day that our pathway is strewn with the wreckage of broken pledges and that we have learned to should separate industrial issues from political."

Prior to the war the Australian Labor Party controlled all Australian states, except Victoria. The party went to pieces during the war hysteria and much ground has been lost.

Recently Prime Minister Bruce indused the Federal Parliament to pass a drastic industrial law that makes a new record in placing unions in the power of courts.

If a unionist now offers a resolution that a judge decides is insulting to his court, the unionist can be fined $100. If a union fails to keep postal addresses of union members a fine of $250 is possible. This law, unionists claim, is for prosecution purposes.

Federal Judge Beeby has ruled, according to Secretary Morrison's information, that arbitrators are not entitled to two pick-ups a day." This means that the employer can go to the union headquarters and take on as many men per day, instead of once, as formerly. This opens the way for favoritism and friction.

A compulsory arbitration award has been enforced in Australia for many years. The courts are being given wider powers by legislative action and it is now proposed that workers be licensed to work on the waterfront.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FAVORED BY EDUCATOR

New York, Nov. 17.—The school system of this city is responsible for the making of many criminals, according to Dr. Gilbert J. Raynor, principal of Alexander High School, Brooklyn.

The educator made a sweeping indictment of the school system which, he says, leads many students to take courses of study for which they are not qualified, and then fail, or drop out and this makes social misfits, habitual failures and often criminals of them.

Dr. Raynor urged an increase in the number of vocational schools.

FEWER JOBLESS THIS YEAR

New York, Nov. 17.—That unemployment is not so serious in this city as it was a year ago is indicated by the number of persons cared for at the Municipal Lodging House during the week ending Nov. 3. During the same period last year 3,362 men, women and children were cared for, while for the same week this year the number was 2,800.

GUST. ANDERSON WINS

Washington, Nov. 17.—Gust. Anderson, secretary of the Central Labor Council, Portland, Ore., received a write from his home that he was elected to the State Legislature. He was second in 12 successful candidates who will represent that county in the House. Mr. Anderson is on the A. F. of L. auditing committee, which will report, to the New Orleans convention of the A. F. of L.

HALF MILLION VOTES COULD ELECT SMITH

Urbana, Ill., Nov. 17.—A change of half a million votes in closely contested States could elect Smith, according to Prof. Dickenson, chairman of the University of Illinois, originator of the Dickenson football rating system.

"If 500,000 or 1½ per cent, of the voters in the closely contested States had voted Democratic instead of Republican, Smith would be the next President," said Prof. Dickenson.

New York, Nov. 17.—"If" figurers are showing what would happen providing a small fraction of voters acted differently in the last election. One statistician shows how easily Smith could be elected, while another "iffer" shows that a shift of 150,000 votes would give President-elect Hoover all of the 48 States.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Calgary, Canada, Nov. 17.—Organized painters raised wages 20 cents an hour, One-half will be effective next March and the remaining 10 cents an hour in March the following year.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN

Portland, Ore., Nov. 17.—The Retail Clerks' Union secured signatures of all union stores for their new agreement.

"UNIVERSAL" DRAFT FAVORED BY LEGION

Washington, Nov. 17.—The American Legion will urge Congress to approve its so-called "universal" draft for war times. This proposed legislation known as the Johnson-Capper bill has been before Congress since 1922. The President would be authorized, in the event of war, or when he believes war is imminent, to determine the material resources, industrial organizations and services upon which government control is necessary and "to take such steps as may be necessary to stabilize prices of services and of all commodities."

The President would also be authorized to conscript all persons within the ages of 21 and 30, or such other limits as he may fix.

The bill is opposed by the American Federation of Labor. Advocates of the measure refer to it as a draft of "capital and labor" and they would create the impression that the plan will destroy all profit in war.

Control of the workers under this bill is not denied. The President could draft them into the army or into any industrial occupation, and set their wages. They would be under the same discipline as uniformed soldiers.

The "drafting of capital," however, would merely consist of regulating their profits, such as is now done with the railroads. Profits would be confined to a "fair return," after interest, depreciation, replacement, sinking fund and other charges are met.

The bill is in no sense "conscription of capital and labor." The proper term would be conscription of labor and an extension of the regulation of the profits of capital.

Colorado "Can't-Strike" Law Fails; Zealots For Serfdom Are Silenced

Denver, Nov. 17.—The glitter and tinsel of the Colorado State Industrial Commission law is getting a brassy tinge.

The law is based on the theory that if the facts in an industrial dispute are developed, public opinion will force both sides to reach an agreement.

This reasoning was quite popular a few years ago, but the public, it seems, are not interested in industrial disputes unless they are inconvenienced. The Colorado law created the State Industrial Commission. Under the act it is illegal for workers to strike until the commission investigates and reports.

When this statute was passed, the public were assured the golden era was at hand. Governor Allen of Kansas toured the nation in defense of his "can't strike" law and was prominently mentioned as a Presidential candidate. Texas outlawed strikes in port cities, and Rockefeller's company "union" was in full flower.

The Colorado law is losing enthusiastic defenders. Only recently the commission ruled against the seven-day work week in Colorado Springs restaurants, but employers ignored the order and the workers must depend upon their economic power.

The Laundrymen's Association of this city is the latest to defy the commission, which ruled that laundry wagon drivers have the right to belong to a trade union. These business men supported one of their members who would enforce the "yellow dog," as the entering wedge in a fight against the union.

The collapse of the State Industrial Commission law is a vindication of organized labor's position that there can be no substitute for genuine collective bargaining.

General Motors Speed-Up Systems Bring Rich Gain To Stockholders

New York, Nov. 17.—General Motors Corporation, America's richest industrial concern, declared another stock dividend. This time it is on a two-and-one-half-for-one basis.

A holder of 100 shares of old stock will now own 350 shares. The $5 dividend and extras that were paid on the old stock is now changed to $3.50 a share, or $10.50 a share per year for the 350 shares.

If workers even made a hasty study of corporation statistics they would secure an insight into the tremendous profits concerns like General Motors and United States Steel are making. These profits are being quietly distributed among stockholders in the form of extra cash dividends, bonuses and extra stock, known as stock dividends.

The present management, system low interest detracts from the high amount a stockholder actually receives because of his additional stock.

As this pyramiding of stock continues, the workers are called upon for greater efficiency and speed-up methods are constantly installed to earn interest on the increased capitalization that grows and grows.

In the first nine months of this year General Motors earned a net profit of $240,534,613. This is a record that no other American corporation has ever approached in peace time.

U. S. Miners Lead World In Output; Efficiency Methods Costly To Life

Washington, Nov. 17.—"American miners produce more coal per capita than those of other nations," according to Scott Turner, director United States Bureau of Mines.

"They are able to do this largely by employing electrical machinery and equipment," said Mr. Turner. "The steadily increasing use of such apparatus in mines, while a distinct factor in the attainment of greater efficiency in mineral production, subjects the workers to additional well-recognized hazards. Electric flashes and sparks from this equipment may ignite accumulations of mine gases and coal dust and thus cause disastrous mine explosions."

The bureau director called attention to the deadly result of coal owners' failure to support the roofs of mine workings.

"Nearly half of the accidental deaths in the mines of the country result from falls of mine roof," said Mr. Turner. "Falls of roof kill more men than any other class of accidents, but they attract slight notice because they lack the spectacular aspects of disastrous mine explosions. More than 1,200 coal and metal miners are killed every year by falls of mine roof and the lessening of this danger constitutes one of the biggest safety problems in the mining industry."